

Hammond Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes of March 4, 2025

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The Hammond Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in person and via [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us).

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Amanda Aguilera (Z)
Anne Taylor (IP)
Kevin Clutter (IP)
Laurie Czulno (IP)
Janet Evans (IP)
Patrick Swibes (IP)

ABSENT

Christopher Jones
Debbie McGough

ALSO PRESENT

Brian L. Poland, AICP
Director of City Planning

Tom Novak
Assistant City Planner

Shannon Morris-Smith
Recording Secretary

Ray Escamilla
I.T., Zoom

PRESENT- 6

ABSENT- 2

QUORUM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to table the minutes for October 1, 2024 meeting. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Mr. Clutter. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 2 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2024 meeting. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Ms. Taylor. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 2 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

Mr. Swibes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 4, 2025 meeting. Ms. Czulno so moved, seconded by Mr. Clutter. Roll call vote. Amanda Aguilera/yes, Anne Taylor/yes, Kevin Clutter/yes, Laurie Czulno/yes, Janet Evans/yes, Patrick Swibes/yes. 6 "Ayes", 0 "Nays", 2 "Absent", 0 "Abstentions". Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Poland commented that the Briar East Woods group requested a copy of the December 10, 2024 and January 10, 2025 minutes. The January 10, 2025 minutes have been available for a month and now the December 10, 2025 minutes are available. The group had not yet picked up the January 10, 2025 minutes from the Law Department.

Project Updates

Educational Assistance and Communications Committee

On-line display – Ms. Czulno stated copies of the presentation were printed out and distributed to the Commissioners. There was one comment received by the Commissioners and there was an adjustment made based on the comment. The committee met prior to the meeting to review the layout of the presentation on the display board. Ms. Czulno further stated the proclamation was almost completed for approval. May 1, 2025 was the targeted completion date.

Mr. Poland asked Ms. Czulno if the comments she referred to were his comments. Ms. Czulno stated “Yes”. The initial submission was printed. There was a one sentence change that was not resubmitted. Ms. Czulno will send the corrected version to Mr. Poland.

There was further discussion on the description of what would go on the display board and the website display.

Ms. Czulno discussed the second project that would highlight six to eight styles of homes in Hammond. This would have the same type of connotation as the first project. The title would be “Architecture-Hammond Style”. Ms. Czulno requested suggestions from the Commissioners on identifying homes to match to architectural definitions.

Mr. Poland asked if this would be a digital display. Ms. Czulno stated “Yes”. Mr. Poland further stated that a similar project was done in the past and to talk to Ms. McGough about photos. Ms. Evans stated Ms. McGough was already working on the fundamentals.

2025 Project/Little Red Schoolhouse – Ms. Aguilera stated there were no new updates. The project would be resumed when the weather warmed up and the building was warmer.

Website Visits – Status Report (4th Quarter 2024) – Mr. Novak reviewed the report. Ms. Czulno requested to have the May Preservation Month display posted on the Gohammond.com home page. Mr. Poland asked Mr. Novak to follow up with the procedure for the website display.

Special Projects Committee – The Special Projects Committee was reviewed with the Commissioners. Mr. Poland discussed the demolition project at 28-34 Ruth Street. This was a very nice apartment building that was currently with severe water damage and collapsing ceilings, walls, and roofs. The property was privately owned, but the building was a danger to the adjacent properties. The City was using funds for distressed properties to demolish the building. Mr. Poland further stated there was a group that was trying to save the building and fight the demolition. The funding for the demolition was CDBG. A Section 106 process was triggered as a result of using CDBG funds. A Memorandum of Agreement was made with the Advisory Council & Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the City of Hammond.

The mitigation measures were in two parts. The first part was to remove some architectural features and find a place to store them. The second part was to have the history of Harrison Park and the connection to the building. A consultant would be hired to complete this task. Mr. Poland

requested that a Commissioner that was familiar with the Harrison Park area to assist with an objective review of the work that would be provided by the consultant.

Designation Committee – Mr. Poland stated there were some outstanding items with the designation list. Mr. Swibes confirmed that there were some outstanding items and the committee would set a date to meet. Mr. Poland requested that Mr. Swibes inform him of the committees meeting date.

Design Review Committee – There were no new updates.

5935 Hohman Avenue - Montessori Schoolhouse – Mr. Novak stated there were no new updates.

229 Ogden Street – Mr. Novak stated there were no new updates.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

There were none.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Poland informed the Commissioners that he would not be present for the April 1, 2025 meeting.

LIAISON COMMENTS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Taylor motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Taylor. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED: 4-1-2025


Patrick Swibes, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Shannon Morris-Smith, Secretary